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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 28, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"), no claims have been amended. Claims 30, 35 and 38 have previously been withdrawn to an election to a restriction requirement. Therefore, claims 25, 29, 31-34 and 36-37 are pending. Support for the instant amendments is provided throughout the as-filed specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 25, 29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,691,744 to Haver *et al.* ("Haver") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,194,865 to Mizugoshi ("Mizugoshi"). Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Haver in view of Mizugoshi and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 1,788,657 to Caals ("Caals"). Claims 33, 34, 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Haver in view of Mizugoshi and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,327,866 to Pall *et al.* ("Pall"). Applicant respectfully traverse these rejections for *at least* the reason that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Claim 25 is directed to a filter screen and recites, *inter alia*, a first plurality of filaments extending in a first direction; a second plurality of filaments extending in a second direction transverse to the first direction, the second plurality of filaments being woven with the first plurality of filaments; one or more first reinforcing filaments woven with the second

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plurality of filaments in the second direction to reinforce the second plurality of filaments in the first direction; and one or more second reinforcing filaments woven with the first plurality of filaments in the first direction to reinforce the first plurality of filaments in the second direction in claim 25.

Claim 33 is directed to a filter screen and recites, *inter alia*, one or more first reinforcing filaments extending in the first direction and produced by brazing and engaged with the second plurality of filaments to reinforce the second plurality of filaments in the first direction; and one or more second reinforcing filaments extending in the second direction and produced by brazing and engaged with the first plurality of filaments to reinforce the first plurality of filaments in the second direction in claim 33.

Claim 36 is directed to a filter screen and recites, *inter alia*, one or more first reinforcing filaments extending in the first direction and produced by welding and engaged with the second plurality of filaments to reinforce the second plurality of filaments in the first direction; and one or more second reinforcing filaments extending in the second direction and produced by welding and engaged with the first plurality of filaments to reinforce the first plurality of filaments in the second direction in claim 36.

Haver merely discloses a process for manufacturing a filter wire cloth with a twill-strip weave that includes warp wires and weft wires forming a plurality of alternating patterns in the direction of a twill line. In accordance with Haver, at least one intermediate weft or warp wire is inserted in the weave in the region of disruption of a twill line course; that intermediate weft or warp wire alters the uniform tying of the weft or warp wires respectively. As a result of the insertion, the fixation of the position of the weft fibers in one pattern is

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practically achieved whereby a uniform, accurately defined mesh size in each pattern region and in the filter cloth in general is provided.

It must be noted that the whole of Haver's specification discusses inserting one or more weft wires not warp wires. The only passage in Haver that discusses the possibility of inserting warp wires is in the Summary. However, the Summary fails to teach incorporating both warp wires and weft wires. Rather, one of ordinary skill in the art must choose between inserting intermediate warp or weft wires, not both.

Thus, Haver fails to teach inserting both an intermediate weft wire and an intermediate warp wire in the same pattern region or filter cloth. Accordingly, Haver fails to teach or suggest a filter screen that includes both one or more first reinforcing filaments extending in a first direction and one or more second reinforcing filaments extending in the second direction, as recited in all the rejected claims.

Further, Haver fails to teach the features of one or more first reinforcing filaments woven with the second plurality of filaments in the second direction to reinforce the second plurality of filaments in the first direction and one or more second reinforcing filaments woven with the first plurality of filaments in the first direction to reinforce the first plurality of filaments in the second direction, as recited in all the rejected claims.

Mizugoshi fails to remedy the deficiencies of Haver because Haver merely teaches an auxiliary thread 4, which is placed in parallel with the weft and an auxiliary thread 5, which is placed parallel to warp 1. *See*, column 2, lines 4-24 of Mizugoshi. Thus, the teachings of Haver and Mizugoshi, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or render obvious the invention as recited in claims 25, 33 and 36.

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Caals fails to remedy the deficiencies of Haver and Mizugoshi because Caals merely teaches an outdated technology for improving filter cloths for use in filter presses. In accordance with the teachings of Caals, a continuous filter-fabric is weaved wherein warping the yarn is performed to the desired strength and, after each center, a double border. Subsequently, the obtained fabric may be cut in the middle of each alternate double border so that a double filter-cloth with all round strengthened borders and double strengthened border in the middle is provided in such a way that the top of the filter-press frames are overlapped. Thus, the teachings of Haver, Mizugoshi and Caals, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Similarly, Pall merely teaches a conventional process for producing woven wire mesh for use in filter elements, wherein the woven wire sheet material is formed of interwoven metallic filaments and treated by controlled interrelated deforming and sintering operations. Thus, Haver and Mizugoshi, analyzed with one or both of Caals and Pall, fails to disclose, teach or render obvious the claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submit that all of the claims, including withdrawn claims 30, 35 and 38, are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims.

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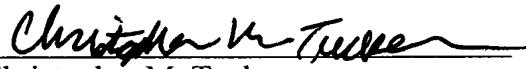
CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,

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